

# Minutes of a Council Meeting of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOAT OWNERS

Held at the Wolverhampton Boat Club on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2014

**Present:** Mike Rodd (Chair), Stephen Peters, Mark Tizard, Peter Fellows, Trevor Rogers, Geoffrey Rogerson David Fletcher, Richard Carpenter (until lunch break). **Action**

**Apologies for absence:**, Jane Taylor

## 1) Minutes of last meeting

- i) Minutes 8<sup>th</sup> March approved unanimously
- ii) Matters Arising and actions:
  - Why are income figures down when the membership fee has gone up substantially? Some analysis is needed, figures will come from membership discussions. DF
  - Advertising - Barrus are not responding to contacts, needs follow up. RC
  - Meeting venues - Black Buoy CC not viable. AWCC not responding. Concluded to go to Byfleet. RC
  - All other minuted actions completed or discussed as part of the agenda for this meeting.

## 2) Policy Discussions: Matters requiring agreement and action from this meeting

- i) Promoting membership: There is a wish to capitalise on current mooring issues as publicity and recruitment. Many magazines are dependent on CRT and IWA and will not respond. Towpath Talk have always been helpful. Suggestion made to place a piece with them soon. Mark and Peter will work on this, and Richard will investigate costs. MT/PF  
RC
- ii) Boating Organisations had planned a meeting with CRT on enforcement on 23rd of May and implications of K&A pilot exercise. Meeting is delayed by CRT after communications error. To be reorganised MR
- iii) Update on K&A moorings interim project: The plan has no penalties specified and appears to be voluntary. We have made our objections known, but agreed that it should go ahead as a trial. There is observed to be a shortage of enforcement in the area, only two boat checkers. GR/PF
- iv) Legal review supplement and recent judgement: This is ready to go in NN with a response from CRT. All agreed to go ahead. We held a discussion on whether CC rules applied to a boat on a cruise out from its home mooring. CRT appear to be wanting to say so. Geoffrey had some clarification questions to send to CRT legal and flush out their views GR
- v) Changes to private boats licence terms document: It was noted that the terms are changed to facilitate the separation of commercial licences. The view was that NBW had recently overstated the position. MR
- vi) Trevor volunteered to undertake a review of policy documents to be found on the web site. TR

## 3) CRT Matters

- i) Mike and Mark reported on the short stay mooring meeting. There was a premeet with other users, IWA, AWCC, RBOA and ACC which was useful. Outcome with CRT is that there will be no more changes to VM until more information is gained. There will be an interim meeting on enforcement. Date tba. MR/MT
- ii) On the same issue, Mark reported on his recent email questionnaire. There have been 80 replies with about 50% from CCers, and Mark is responding personally. The comments focus on boats that don't move. Mark will follow up and summarise for NN. MT
- iii) We noted that ACC are active on making individual complains to CRT over local

- overstaying boats. They have 250 members communicating by email.
- iv) Sharing Towpath Consultation: Official response has been made along the lines of not enough emphasis on navigation issues. Report is on the web.
- v) Implications of CRT staff changes: Sally Ash is going end June. No news on replacement. Jeff Wyatt has been temporarily replaced by one of his engineers. No information on the permanent replacement. Dean Davis is to undertake a special communications role for 6 months.

#### 4) EA Matters

- i) Update on EA situation: EA are undertake restructuring with 1 layer taken out. There is a different man in charge of the Thames, who is known to us unfavourably.
- ii) Louis Jankel has stepped back from TUGn/TUNF after disagreement with Shefras. Dennis Hill will take over TUGN and he is expected to join us as members. Graham Paterson will attend ~~TUNF~~. *N N U P*.
- iii) RTA has recently relaunched as a charity away from EA funding. We conclude that we should join and the subscription of £25 was approved unanimously.

MR

#### 5) BSS Matters

- i) David reported on BSS issues, main activity being revision to hire boat requirements.
- ii) Trevor reported on the proposed changes to the TC ToR. He was not happy that the BSS AC committee would be side-lined as a result. He will make appropriate comments to BSS.
- iii) Trevor also reported on the British Standards GME33 meeting that covers all craft up to 80ft. The items coming are UK position on fire protection, petrol and diesel fuel tanks, galley stoves, man overboard and recovery, code of practice on gas burning.

TR

TR

#### 6) Finance

- i) Current balances:
  - Barclays current account £3376
  - Barclays deposit account - £12,752
  - Santander - £2,781
  - Total - £18,909
- ii) David reported that Helen Hutt is getting set up to start bookkeeping activities. Jon Darlington is closing out for the year 2013/4 up to end March.
- iii) David noted that we are currently holding overpayments from ex and current members to the value of about £2200 and that some analysis is required to understand the liability and make a plan to resolve.
- iv) Stephen raised concerns that such activities have not previously been part of the Treasurers work. Mike indicated that we need the Treasurer to own all finance issues, so that there was a focal point on Council. With Jon Darlington no longer involved we need to act to cover the role. It was agree that we would jointly prepare a job description for the Treasurer, to cover the situation going forward. Stephen would confirm his willingness or otherwise to undertake this.
- v) Access to bank statements; It was agreed that Stephen would make bank statements available by email to Helen twice a month. Barclays is known to be easy but Santander would require setting up. David will arrange for read only access to PayPal.
- vi) Council unanimously approved the cost of VT software at £125 for the purpose of book keeping.

DF/SP

MR/SP

SP/DF

#### 7) Web Matters

- i) Progress report: Web site is running and is stable on Joomla 2.5. There are no significant issues, and all changes in the month have been about arrangements and content. All the content of the old web site has been republished or deleted. Backups are up to date and in multiple places and drives. Multiple downloads of the membership database are taken during the month for lists and analysis. Joomla is up to date and unaffected by Heartbleed.

Heartbleed can affect the Heart Server, but this is clear at the moment and being monitored. Jane has been chasing non-functioning emails. This round is considered complete. We send to about 400 valid addresses. For about 200 we have never had emails. April bulletin was sent out, plus an additional email for Mark on mooring. Payments have been received via PayPal since the Joomla upgrade. AOL continue to reject distributed emails from Heart Internet, but the alternate parallel route via Outlook is currently working and being monitored. In the near future it is planned to delete the content of the old Joomla 1.5 web site, to reduce the back-up payload which has gone up to an unmanageable 3GB.

DF

**8) NABO Membership, Promotion and Marketing**

i) Membership handling.

These are the statistics for membership as dated.

There are minor inconsistencies due to errors being cleared in month, and we are not at the end of this process. We have not deleted those who have not renewed in Dec and Jan (as we would have previously done), and are chasing up hoping to retain some at least.

Member removed is Ogden (died)

New members are John Sloan and Paul Horton

Donor status is suspect as may refer to more than one year, rather than last 12 months

Members	2014/2015	
	1st April	1st May
Full	589	592
Life	7	7
Associate	13	13
Affiliate	17	17
total	626	629
Family members associated with above	205	206
Members removed		1
Donors	67	67
Overdue between 1 and 3 months (incl in above)	12	31
Paid pre 2103 subs rate		114
New members in month 1	1	2

RC

Non renewal Dec 13	6
Non renewal Jan 14	9
Non renewal Feb 14	6
Non renewal Mar 14	10

ii) Action on outstanding payments: All of these have been identified in VT and the data transferred into the web database, so we can search and track the issue. There are about 114 members in this category. Most have been written to, but not those between January and march this year, when Melanie was struggling. April and may renewals have been told as part of the ongoing renewal. An additional membership list is created on the web by membership number and shows under payment status for 2013/4.

DF/JT  
DF

iii) Council suggest that we ask Jane to start contacting these members. David will write something for NN.

iv) Other promotion and recruitment items were covered elsewhere.

**9) NABO News: Articles/Deadlines**

i) Items and notices next NN: The following items were identified  
 Legal review (Geoffrey)  
 Pipe mater (smoking) (Peter)

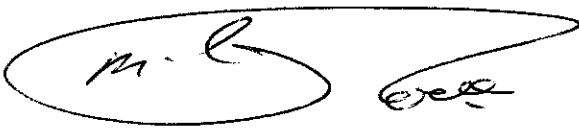
PF

Journey from Euston (David)  
Mooring (Mark)  
Item from CBOA (David Lowe)  
K and A Local mooring plan. (Mark)  
Coal saving from insulated chimney (Mike)  
BSS Committee work (David)  
Letter from Simon Greer.

**10) A.O. B.**

i) None

The meeting closed at 15.30. Next meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.45, venue to be confirmed by RC. **RC**

Two handwritten signatures are present. The first signature, on the left, is circled and appears to be 'Mi.' followed by a flourish. The second signature, on the right, is 'Mark' with a flourish.

14/6/2014